



Speech prepared for the Executive Mayor, Cllr Nomvuyo Mposelwa

Event: Official handover of the Aliwal North Water Treatment Works Holding Dams project

Venue: Maletswai

Date: 8 December 2025

Programme Director,
Leadership of the Joe Gqabi District Municipality and Walter Sisulu Local Municipality,

Representatives from SLS Civils,

Community leaders, stakeholders, and the people of Maletswai

Good morning.

Today marks another significant milestone in our ongoing journey to strengthen service delivery and restore dignity to our communities. We are gathered here for the official handover of the Aliwal North Water Treatment Works Holding Dams project to the appointed contractor, SLS Civils - a crucial step in our commitment to ensuring reliable, quality water services for the people of this town.

Valued at R 47.8 million, this investment in infrastructure development is not merely a construction project. It is a promise fulfilled - a tangible demonstration that the Joe Gqabi District Municipality is accelerating the rollout of critical water and sanitation infrastructure. Over the next 18 months, from 4 December 2025 to 30 June 2027, we will see the development of two earth holding dams, lined and strategically located next to the Water Treatment Works.

Why is this important? Because these dams will reduce the amount of silt entering the Water Treatment Works, which has long affected the efficiency of treatment processes. By reducing silt load, we significantly improve the quality of treated water that ultimately reaches households. In addition, these dams will provide an added buffer of raw water storage, giving our system some resilience, especially during seasonal fluctuations.

Colleagues, this project speaks directly to two of our key municipal priorities: improving infrastructure and driving local economic development.

Beyond the technical outcomes, this project will create an estimated 25 jobs, and will open doors for local SMMEs, whose participation will be confirmed as work progresses. This is how we build our local economy by intentionally ensuring that government investments circulate within our communities, sustaining livelihoods and empowering small enterprises.

We stand here today not only celebrating what is about to begin, but also recognising the progress we have made as a municipality. We are on track in transforming our water and sanitation systems across the district. The Aliwal North Water Treatment Works Holding Dams project forms part of a broader, long-term infrastructure improvement plan.

In fact, I am pleased to announce that early next year, we will be launching yet another critical project: the replacement of asbestos water pipes with modern steel pipelines. This upgrade will significantly enhance water efficiency, reduce losses, and improve the reliability of supply for Maletswai residents. Step by step, project by project, we are changing the infrastructure landscape of our district.

To SLS Civils, we entrust you with a project of great importance to our people. We expect quality workmanship, adherence to timelines, and meaningful participation of local labour and businesses.

To the community, we call for your support and cooperation, let us safeguard this project, because it is being built for you and for future generations.

As leadership, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering sustainable services and ensuring that every investment made brings real, measurable improvements to people's lives.

Today is a reminder that progress is not an abstract concept - it is visible, it is practical, and it is happening right here in Maletswai.

I thank you.

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